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RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

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We must show the world what a free economy can do ...to put unused capacity to work, spur new productivity and foster higher economic growth.

President Kennedy.

SECRETARY FREEMAN ANNOUNCES FIVE LAND AND PEOPLE CONFERENCES

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman will seek fresh ideas on how to spur economic renewal of the nation's rural communities at five regional meetings, planned in September and October. Farmers, businessmen, educators, civic and government leaders will be invited to put forward their own proposals for improving their communities through rural redevelopment programs.

The theme of these conferences will be "strengthening and revitalizing rural America." Their chief purpose will be to stimulate interest and participation in local development programs designed to make more economic use of natural resources and insure adequate economic opportunity for people in rural areas and communities, the Secretary points out.



The conferences will be held September 17-18 in St. Louis, Mo., for the North Central States; October 1-2 in Portland, Ore., for the Western States; October 8-9 in Denver, Colo., for the Great Plains States; October 15-16 in New Orleans, La., for the Southern States; and October 22-23 in Philadelphia, Pa., for the Northeast. More than 1,000 people are expected at each meeting.

A large part of each conference will be devoted to statements and recommendations of individuals in attendance. "We want to learn from the local people how these programs can be improved to better serve their purposes," Secretary Freeman explains. "We look to local representatives as the real experts in determining how Federal programs can best help to revitalize rural areas."

Secretary Freeman will be chairman and keynote speaker at each conference. John A. Baker, assistant secretary for rural development and conservation, will serve as temporary chairman.



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Growth Through Agricultural Progress

PRESIDENT NOMINATES BAKER AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY

President Kennedy, last month, nominated John A. Baker as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture in charge of Rural Development and Conservation, an action which Secretary Freeman termed: "a significant appointment," and "another step in our strong program for rural development tied to the effective use of land and the development of alternative land uses."

Mr. Baker has been Director of Agricultural Credit, a position now abolished. The nomination was accompanied with a readjustment of some agencies within the Department of Agriculture. Placed under Mr. Baker's direction now are: Farmer Cooperative Service, Farmers Home Administration, Forest Service, Office of Rural Areas Development, Rural Electrification Administration, and Soil Conservation Service.

Secretary Freeman pointed out "that the program that's set down in our food and agricultural program for the '60's by way of developing alternative land uses and alternative sources of income in rural areas is going to receive full, concentrated attention from this Department."

SECRETARY FREEMAN ANNOUNCES FAMILY FARM STUDY

Secretary Freeman directed that a sub-committee of the 35-member Public Advisory Committee on RAD conduct an independent study "to assure that Department of Agriculture policies and programs work most effectively for the preservation and improvement of the family farm pattern in American agriculture." The Advisory group had called for this family farm review study at their last meeting, held in May. (Newsletter 45)

In establishing the family farm subcommittee group, Secretary Freeman cited the the Agriculture Act of 1961, when "it was declared to be the policy of Congress to recognize the importance of the family farm as an efficient unit of production and as an economic base for towns and cities in rural areas.

"Consistent with this declaration, it is the policy of the Department of Agriculture to encourage, preserve, and strengthen the family farm pattern of agriculture in the United States."

Clarence McCormick, Vincennes, Ind., chairman of the advisory committee, named as members of the family farm study group: James G. Patton, president, National Farmers Union, Denver, Colo., chairman; Dr. Harry L. Brown, president, Georgia Farm Bureau, Macon, Ga.; L. A. Potts, Dean, School of Agriculture Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.; Stanley Andrews, farmer, Alamo, Texas; Helge Nygren, president, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Flasher, N.D.; Nolen J. Fuqua, National Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Duncan, Okla.; L. C. Carpenter, Missouri Farmers Association, Columbia, Mo.; Rev. E. W. O'Rourke, executive-director, National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Des Moines, Iowa; Robert M. Koch, president, National Limestone Institute, Washington, D.C.; and Herschel D. Newsom, master, National Grange, Washington, D.C. Charles Stickney, member of the National Agricultural Advisory Committee is an ex-officio member.

KENTUCKY WATERSHED PROJECT BENEFITS RURAL-URBAN PEOPLE

The Mud River Watershed Project, in Butler, Logan, Todd and Muhlenberg Counties of Kentucky, is another example of how watershed projects provide a wide range of benefits to both rural and urban people -- through rural areas development.

The watershed, 240,000 acres, was authorized in July, 1958. Eight of the 25 flood-water retarding dams are completed. Seven more dams are now being built. One dam, a multiple-purpose structure, provides both flood prevention and wildlife conservation and recreation. An 826-acre lake is being developed in cooperation with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Some 50 cabins have been built around the lake. A sportsman group built a \$50,000 clubhouse. Cabin sites are being sold, some for from \$500 to \$1,500 per site.

Another multiple-purpose dam structure, when completed, will provide a supplementary water supply to the city of Lewisburg. This added water is expected to result in 150 or more new jobs in the city. Lewisburg recently obtained an ARA grant of \$144,000 and a \$130,000 public facility loan to help finance the water system that will utilize water stored behind the multiple-purpose watershed dam. The Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service provided technical and financial help to the watershed project.

ARA APPROVALS CREATE JOBS IN RURAL AREAS

I Between 1,500 and 2,000 direct and indirect new jobs will be created in rural areas as the result of project approvals by the Department of Commerce's Area Redevelopment Administration in seven states. The projects were all in 5b (predominately rural) ARA designated areas, and they had previously been reviewed by the Department of Agriculture. In addition there were approximately 6,000 jobs created in other states as the result of ARA-RAD activities.

Here are some typical examples:

- * Alaska -- A \$1.4 million public facility loan will enable the city of Saxman, Ketchikan redevelopment area, to build new port facilities, breakwaters and warehouses. Between 500 and 1,000 new jobs will grow out of this project.
- * Arkansas -- An estimated 350 new jobs will result from the approval of a \$72,000 public facility grant to the City of Heber Springs, Arkansas. The city plans to extend its water and sewer systems to serve a factory.
- * Alabama -- A \$346,000 public facility loan for improvement and extension of the Fayette, Alabama, sewage system, will help expanding industry, including a cotton mill and dairy . . . 65 direct new jobs will result.
- * Georgia -- Two-hundred and eighty permanent new jobs will be created in Winder, as the result of a combined public facility loan and grant of \$1,310,000. The money will be used to improve water and sewage facilities, and permit extension of these services to industrial firms.
- * Minnesota -- An \$18,000 industrial loan to help construct a new cedar fencing plant in Littlefork, will result in the creation of 16 direct new jobs and seven additional jobs in logging to supply the raw material.
- * Ohio -- Expansion of the facilities of an existing meat-packing plant in Greenfield, creating 85 new full-time jobs, will be made possible by a \$212,000 industrial loan.
- * Texas -- Seventy-five new jobs will result from a \$420,000 loan for a community inn in Woodville, which will attract tourists.

FOREST SERVICE PROVIDES MORE EXAMPLES OF RECREATION

I Forest Service, USDA, continuing to survey its field offices and the State Foresters, came up with these examples of going commercial recreation, wildlife, and fish enterprises on privately-owned forest lands:

* Homer Carpenter, Eutaw, Ala., leases 1,500 acres of farm and woodland on a long term agreement. He has converted the former cotton and corn fields into pasture for cows and ponys. He added 8 lakes, 6 cabins, a picnic area, children's playground, gives free pony rides and offers swimming. Fishing, hunting, and rodeos are some of the other attractions at Carpenter's Lodge.

* Calvin W. Jones, Hurricane, W. Va., has 120 acres of land, 41 acres in forests. He has 5 lakes, and 39 acres planted to white pine. There are 150 picnic tables, 8 picnic shelters and parking facilities for 250 vehicles. Jones receives revenue from fishing, picnicking, and sightseeing. He employs 5 persons in the operation and maintenance of his recreational enterprise.

TENNESSEE HOUSING-RAD STORY

I In a quiet and inconspicuous way, a lot of rural areas around the country have been doing a remarkable job of rural redevelopment, starting where they are and using their own know-how and resources. Progress isn't noticed until one day folks wake up to the amazing changes that have taken place.

Such an area is Lawrenceburg, and the surrounding villages and countryside in south central Tennessee. Fifteen years ago it was a "depressed" area by any measure, with some 3,000 farms, most of them small and poor, producing a net yearly income of \$500 or less.

Today the area is rapidly being transformed into one of the most attractive places to live in the midsouth. What made the difference? A hard-working leadership, industrial growth that has added 2,500 direct full-time jobs in manufacturing, and the Farmers Home Administration rural housing program, which is financing handsome, modern small houses throughout the rural areas. Since 1949 the agency has loaned nearly \$1.5 million for new houses in the three-county area of which Lawrenceburg is the main trading center. In the past 12 months alone, FHA's funds were translated into 52 new houses, 51 of them for workers in local industry and business.

Areas like Lawrenceburg have always needed two things: Jobs and decent housing in the open country. Now, at least in this three-county area, private industry is providing the jobs and FHA is financing the homes. As a parallel development, farms are being enlarged and improved in the places where it's still possible to make a living in full-time farming. Large plans are afoot for reforestation, grassland improvement and a parkland that will cover several thousand acres.

IOWA'S AREA-COMMUNITY PROGRAM MOVES AHEAD

I Iowa's development program on an area basis, recently launched by Iowa State University in an 11-county area in the Southeastern part of the state is moving ahead. Area subcommittees have been formed, surveys made, and projects outlined to redevelop the area. Projects discussed include: two flood control dams with recreational potential; development of nursing homes and programs for older people; establishment of two vocational training programs; promotion of tourism and local business.